

HOUSE BILL 2097  
By Brown

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-3-359,  
relative to school social workers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-3-359, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

( ) **If** a local education agency utilizes its basic education program (BEP) funding to maintain a ratio of at least one (1) school social worker per two thousand (2,000) average daily membership; **and**

**If** the student population served by such local education agency is consistently characterized by high concentrations of economically disadvantaged, special education and/or minority students; **and**

**If** the student dropout rate within such local education agency is significantly above the overall dropout rate within the state; **then**

Upon formal application by such local education agency for special hardship funding exclusively for employment of additional school social workers to address such problems, the state board of education may issue a grant for supplemental social worker positions. Provided, however, when combined with BEP social worker funding, the

effect of any such grant shall not exceed the recommended school social worker/student population ratios promulgated within the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Standards for School Social Work Services. Provided, further, however, in any fiscal year the provisions of this subsection shall only apply if, and to the extent that, funding is specifically provided for such purpose within the state's general appropriation act. If applications exceed available resources, the board shall prioritize grants based on greatest need.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000, the public welfare requiring it.